DC
BATMAN
SPECIAL HOLIDAY ISSUE!
20c
NO. 247 FEB.
30430
BAT MAN
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
AT THE STROKE OF MIDNIGHT... EVERYBODY IN GOTHAM GETS STRUCK DEAD!
DEADLY
HAPPY
NEW YEAR

# In 1894, a boy had to learn to act like a man.

## Daisy's 1894 B·B Gun teaches the same lessons.

Back then, a kid had to grow up fast. He was expected to learn marksmanship and gun safety at an early age.

Today, you can learn the same lessons with the Daisy 1894 B•B Gun, a "Spittin' Image"™ of the frontiersman's carbine.

It has the same side-loading port, lever action, sights, and thumb-back hammer safety. It's not a toy. It's a B•B gun.

And now you can learn marksmanship with the exciting Daisy B•B Target-Trap.

It's a $4 value, now yours for only $1.99 when you buy any Daisy B B Gun. Take the coupon below to your store when you buy.

For even more fun, pick-up our booklet, "The Air Rifle Marksman," where you buy your Daisy. It's only 50c.

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*Since the 1800's, American boys have learned marksmanship with a Daisy. Now it's your turn.*

## Daisy B·B Target-Trap. $1.99

with purchase of any Daisy B•B Gun.
**A $4 value.**

The kit includes: Trap frame to catch B•Bs / Targetex rubber backstop / Daisy Air Rifle Manual / Full set of NRA 15-foot match targets / Full set of "Pop-Out Bullseye Targets" / (See the Bullseye "Pop-Out" when you hit it!)
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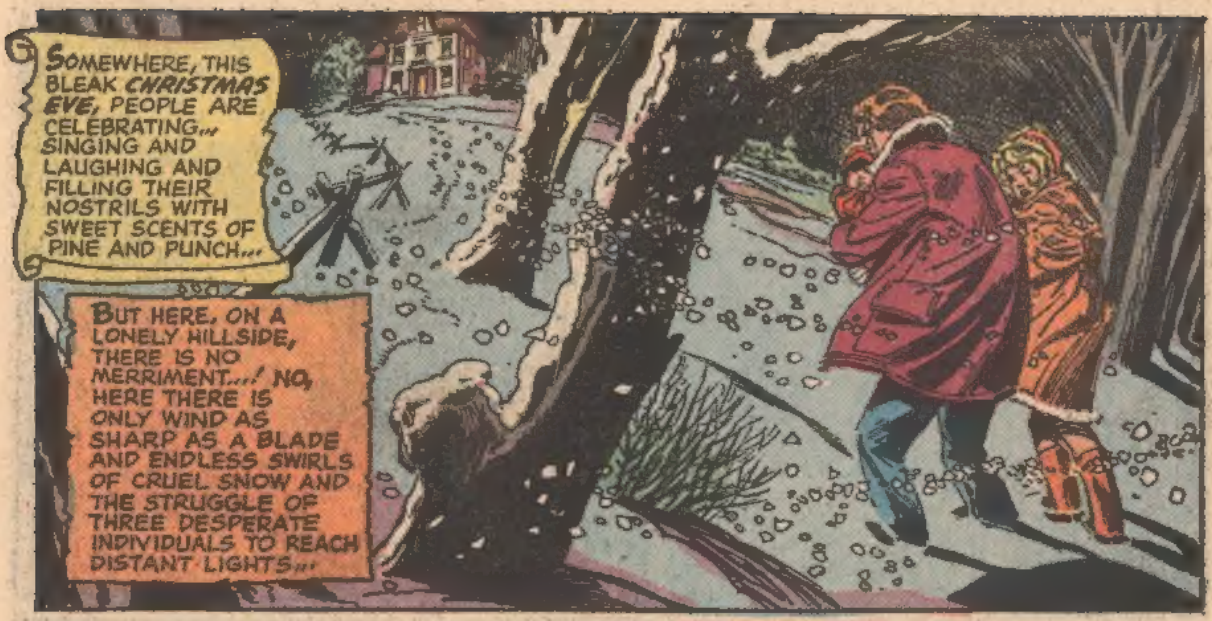
SOMEWHERE, THIS BLEAK CHRISTMAS EVE, PEOPLE ARE CELEBRATING... SINGING AND LAUGHING AND FILLING THEIR NOSTRILS WITH SWEET SCENTS OF PINE AND PUNCH...
BUT HERE, ON A LONELY HILLSIDE, THERE IS NO MERRIMENT...! NO, HERE THERE IS ONLY WIND AS SHARP AS A BLADE AND ENDLESS SWIRLS OF CRUEL SNOW AND THE STRUGGLE OF THREE DESPERATE INDIVIDUALS TO REACH DISTANT LIGHTS...

5-1364

...AND, A MILE AWAY, ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE RISE, A FOURTH FIGURE BREASTS THE STORM, HIS GARMENTS STARK AGAINST THE WHITENESS, THE FACE BENEATH HIS MASK GRIM--
The BATMAN
in "Merry Christmas"
STORY BY: DENNY O'NEIL
ART BY: IRV NOVICK & DICK GIORDANO
EDITED BY: JULIUS SCHWARTZ

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HURRY, MARTHA! IN A FEW SECONDS WE'LL BE SAFE-- AND WARM!
I THOUGHT WE'D NEVER MAKE IT!
MERRY CHRISTMAS, SIR!
OUR CAR BROKE DOWN ON THE HIGHWAY! I WONDER IF WE COULD...
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ABOUT IT!
GO AWAY!
BUT... YOU CAN'T REFUSE US! MY LITTLE BOY IS HALF FROZEN AND...
THAT'S YOUR PROBLEM-- NOT MINE!
YOU HEARD ME... GO!
NAW... LET 'EM IN!
YEAH, STEP INSIDE, FOLKS-- AND MAKE YOURSELVES COMFY!
TH-THANKS! WE WOULDN'T HAVE LASTED ANOTHER FIFTEEN MINUTES OUTSIDE!
YOU MAYBE WON'T LAST THAT LONG HERE!
HEY! GET THAT KID AWAY FROM MY TELESCOPE!
THE THING COST ME NEARLY A THOUSAND!
NAW... LET 'IM PLAY WITH IT! I MEAN... YOU WON'T BE NEEDING YOUR HOBBY AFTER TONIGHT--
--OR ANYTHING ELSE!
2

I RECOGNIZE YOU... FROM THE PICTURES ON TELEVISION! YOU'RE...
YEAH! I'M CHIMP MANNERS! --THE DUDE WHO SWIPED A VIAL OF THE ARMY'S TOP-SECRET NERVE-GAS!
SHAME YOU GOT SUCH GOOD EYES, LADY--
--'CAUSE NATURALLY, I AIN'T GONNA BE ABLE TO LET YA LIVE!
YOU'RE DEAD-- ALL OF YA!
INCLUDING ME, MANNERS?
--THE BATMAN!
WHERE THE DEVIL DID YOU COME FROM?
FROM EXAMINING THE HELICOPTER YOU CRASHED NEARBY!
I FIGURED YOU'D HEAD FOR THE CLOSEST SHELTER--
--AND THIS IS IT!
NATURALLY, YOU'RE GOING TO PULL A GUN--
--AND NATURALLY--
--I'M GOING TO TAKE IT!
3

LET'S MAKE THIS BRIEF, HUH--?
OKAY--YOU GOT MY AUTOMATIC! BUT YOU DIDN'T GET THIS!
KNOW WHAT IT IS, TOUGH GUY? IT'S THE VIAL I SWIPED FROM THAT ARMY BASE!
CUTE, AIN'T IT!
YOU WOULDN'T THINK THERE'S ENOUGH POISON IN THIS LITTLE BOTTLE TO SNUFF HALF A CITY, WOULD YOU?
BUT THERE IS-- AND SINCE I GOT NOTHING TO LOSE...
...I MAY AS WELL OPEN IT--
--'COURSE, IF YOU WERE TO HAND ME BACK MY HARDWARE, I JUST MIGHT CHANGE MY MIND!
YOU WIN, MANNERS!
YOU SAVED YOUR LIFE...FOR A COUPLE SECONDS, ANYHOW!-- YOU REALIZE I CAN'T LET ANY OF YOU GO ON BREATHIN'!
OUTSIDE... MARCH! I PLAN TO HOLE UP IN THIS DUMP--
--AND I DON'T WANT IT CLUTTERED WITH DEAD BODIES!

MANNERS... THERE'S NO REASON TO SHOOT THE CHILD!
THE REASON IS, I LIKE TO BE THOROUGH! DON'T LIKE TO LEAVE LOOSE ENDS!
HE CAN DO YOU NO HARM!
YOU'D BETTER AIM WELL... KILL ME WITH THE FIRST SHOT!
-- BECAUSE, IF YOU DON'T, I'LL WASTE YOU--
DON'T WORRY! I WILL FINISH YOU WITH THE FIRST ONE!
I HAPPEN TO BE AN EXPERT WITH HANDGUNS...
...PLUS WHICH, I'VE HAD A LOTTA PRACTICE AIMING AT LIVE TARGETS!
BYE-BYE, BATMAN--
SUDDENLY, FROM NOWHERE, A LIGHT BLAZES... BRIGHT AND BLINDING--
AND THE STARTLED GUNMAN FIRES WILDLY... AND MISSES--
BAM!
BAM!
5

HE'S OUT LIKE THE PROVERBIAL LIGHT!
SPEAKING OF LIGHTS... I WANT TO THANK WHOEVER FIRED THAT FLARE!
FELLA, IT WASN'T ANY FLARE! IT WAS A STAR!
I'VE STUDIED ASTRONOMY FOR FORTY YEARS--

THE HOLIDAY EXCITEMENT IS ONLY BEGINNING! FOR THE THRILLING STORY OF THE BATMAN'S NEW YEAR'S EVE... TURN TO THE 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING!

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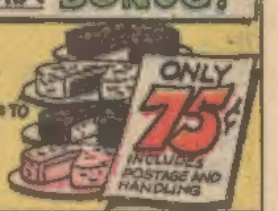

BATMAN in... "and a DEADLY New Year!"
story by DENNY O'NEIL
art by DICK GIORDANO
YOU MIGHT AS WELL STOP RESISTING, MANNERS! YOU'RE CAUGHT--GOOD!
I'VE ALERTED COMMISSIONER GORDON BY 'PHONE... HE'LL BE WAITING FOR US AT THE GOTHAM CITY LIMITS-- WITH A SQUAD OF POLICE!
YOU'LL BE SPENDING 1973 BEHIND BARS... AND A WHOLE LOT OF THE FOLLOWING YEARS!
--IF WE REACH GOTHAM, BATMAN!
OH, COME ON--! YOU SURELY CAN'T EXPECT TO ESCAPE!
WE'LL JUST SEE, TOUGH GUY!
S-1368
1

CHRISTMAS DAWNING... AND THROUGHOUT THIS LOVELY, SPRAWLING AMERICA, CHILDREN ARE SQUEALING WITH DELIGHT AS THEY UNWRAP PRESENTS.. AND TURKEYS ARE BEING POPPED INTO OVENS.., AND PEOPLE ARE BEING HUGGED!...
...FOR THE BATMAN, HOWEVER, THERE IS NO JOY--
--THERE IS, INSTEAD, DANGER!
THAT IDIOT--!
DRIVING A TRUCK LIKE A SPORTS CAR ON AN ICY HIGHWAY!
HE MUST'VE GOTTEN HIS DRIVER'S LICENSE FROM A GUM MACHINE!
THINK SO?
WITH A FRIGHTFUL HISS OF TIRES AND BRAKES, THE TRUCK FISH-TAILS, SLAMMING THE BATMAN'S FRAIL VEHICLE INTO A SNOW-CUSHIONED
THIS WAS NO ACCIDENT! THE TRUCKER DELIBERATELY CLOBBERED ME!
SOMETHING'S WRONG--! NO REASON FOR ANYBODY TO BE HAULING CHRISTMAS TREES TODAY!
THEN... WHY--?
IN AN INSTANT, THE BATMAN'S QUESTION IS ANSWERED--
CONTINUED ON 2 3D PAGE FOLLOWING
2

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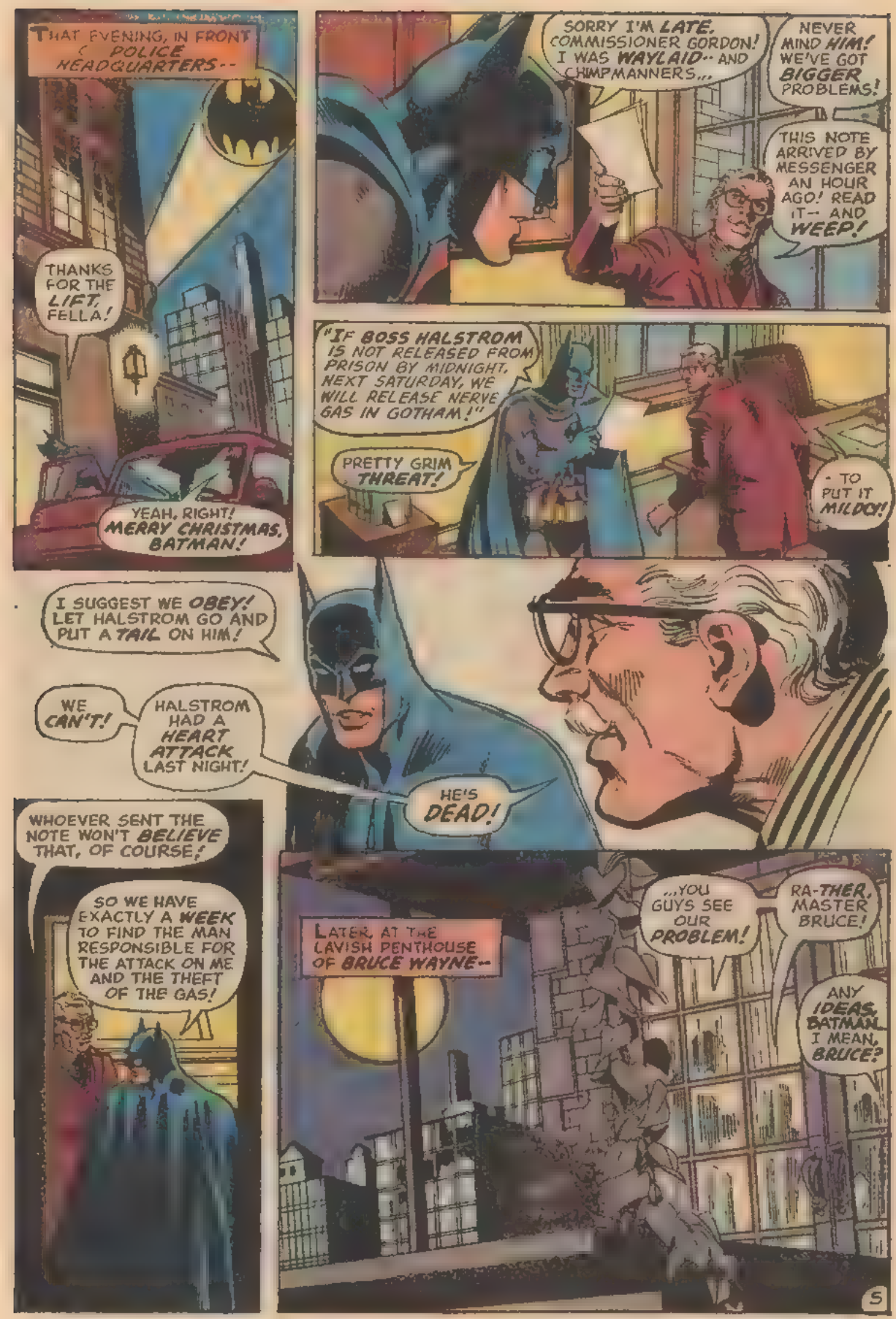
*City*_____

*State*_____ *Zip*_____

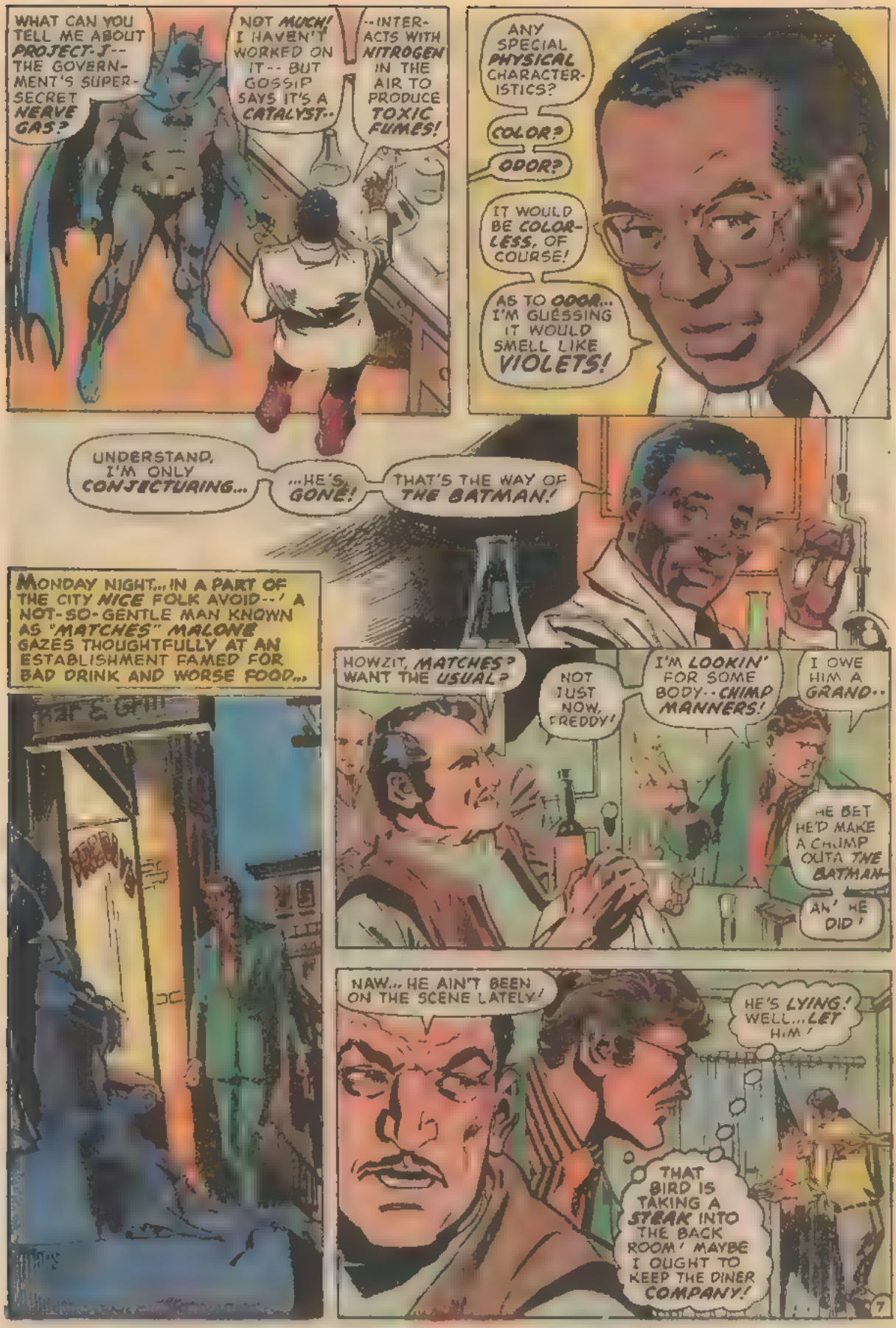
WH

AMBUSH! THEY WERE WAITING FOR US!--FRIENDS OF MANNERS, NO DOUBT!
ORDINARILY, I'D HAVE A CHANCE! THESE GUYS SEEM LIKE GARDEN-VARIETY THUGS--
--BUT I HAVE ONLY ONE FIGHTING HAND... AND MANNERS IS DRAGGING ON ME LIKE AN ANCHOR!
GRAB HIM!
HOLD HIS ARM WHILE I PAY HIM BACK!
GET IT OVER WITH! WE AIN'T GOT ALL DAY!
HOW'S IT FEEL TO BE ON THE RECEIVING END OF A FIST, TOUGHY?
FIST? I THOUGHT A GNAT LANDED ON ME--!
YOU GOT A WISE MOUTH... WHICH I'M GONNA SHUT!
NOT A BAD PUNCH...FOR A GIRL SCOUT!
MANNERS! THIS AIN'T THE CARSON SHOW! SAVE THE SNAPPY PATTER AND FINISH IT!
3

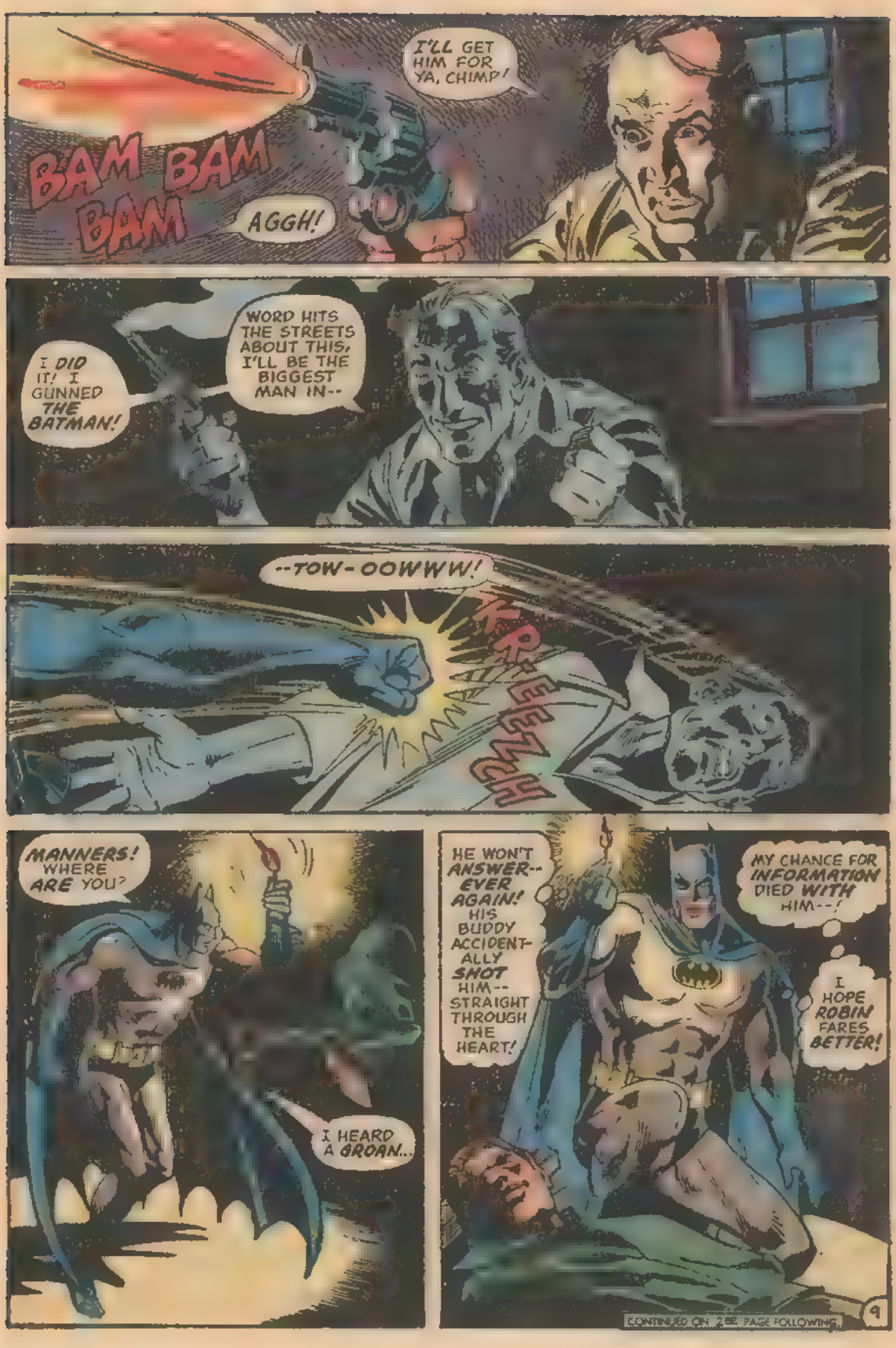
AWWWW... KNUCKLES AGAINST THE BATMAN ARE NOTHIN'!
MIGHT AS WELL SWING A BUTTERFLY WING!
THEN USE YOUR SAP!
THEN, A TALL, WELL-DRESSED MAN STEPS TO THE FALLEN CRIME-FIGHTER AND...
EXCELLENT! HE SHOULD NAP FOR HOURS!
WE'LL TAKE HIS CAR AND LEAVE THE TRUCK...
MIGHT AS WELL! IT WAS ONLY RENTED... UNDER A PHONEY NAME!
A MERE FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER
THEY'RE GONE! NO SURPRISE... I DIDN'T EXPECT THEM TO HANG AROUND FOR A SECOND BRAWL!
THE VIAL OF NERVE GAS I TOOK FROM MANNERS IS GONE WITH THEM!
THEY ABANDONED THEIR WHEELS... PROBABLY MEANS THEY LEFT NO CLUES!
STILL... WON'T HURT TO LOOK!
AFTER A QUICK, THOROUGH SEARCH...
AS I SUSPECTED... ZERO!-- EXCEPT FOR THIS CARD!
BRUCE WAYNE RECEIVED ONE EXACTLY LIKE IT!
--A SMALL LEAD... BUT AT LEAST IT'S A START!
You are cordially invited to a New Year's Eve Gala at the Gotham Cityfop Room, December 31, 1972. Formal Dress. Proceeds to go to Charity
RSVP
4


THAT EVENING, IN FRONT OF POLICE HEADQUARTERS--
THANKS FOR THE LIFT, FELLA!
YEAH, RIGHT! MERRY CHRISTMAS, BATMAN!
SORRY I'M LATE, COMMISSIONER GORDON! I WAS WAYLAID-- AND CHIMPMANNERS...
NEVER MIND HIM! WE'VE GOT BIGGER PROBLEMS!
THIS NOTE ARRIVED BY MESSENGER AN HOUR AGO! READ IT-- AND WEEP!
"IF BOSS HALSTROM IS NOT RELEASED FROM PRISON BY MIDNIGHT, NEXT SATURDAY, WE WILL RELEASE NERVE GAS IN GOTHAM!"
PRETTY GRIM THREAT!
- TO PUT IT MILDLY!
I SUGGEST WE OBEY! LET HALSTROM GO AND PUT A TAIL ON HIM!
WE CAN'T!
HALSTROM HAD A HEART ATTACK LAST NIGHT!
HE'S DEAD!
WHOEVER SENT THE NOTE WON'T BELIEVE THAT, OF COURSE!
SO WE HAVE EXACTLY A WEEK TO FIND THE MAN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ATTACK ON ME AND THE THEFT OF THE GAS!
LATER, AT THE LAVISH PENTHOUSE OF BRUCE WAYNE--
...YOU GUYS SEE OUR PROBLEM!
RA-THER, MASTER BRUCE!
ANY IDEAS, BATMAN. I MEAN, BRUCE?
5

A COUPLE...
WE KNOW SOMEONE IN GORDON'S OFFICE IS WORKING WITH THE CRIMINALS--
OHH? AND MAY I INQUIRE HOW WE KNOW THIS, SIR?
BECAUSE THESE BADDIES KNEW WHEN AND BY WHICH ROAD BATMAN WAS RETURNING WITH MANNERS AND THE GAS-- RIGHT, BRUCE?
CHECK! SO YOU, DICK, ARE GOING TO WORK FOR THE COMMISSIONER -- DISGUISED AS A POLICE CADET!
SNOOP AROUND AND SEE IF YOU CAN DISCOVER THE LEAK!
ALFRED, YOUR JOB IS TO FIND ANY POSSIBLE LINKS BETWEEN THE LATE BOSS HALSTROM AND THE PEOPLE INVITED TO THE NEW YEAR'S PARTY!
I'LL GET ON MANNERS' TRAIL... AFTER I PAY A CALL ON A CERTAIN DOCTOR HARRIS BLAINE--
AS THE BAT-MAN!
SOON--
WORKING LATE, DOCTOR? AND ON A HOLIDAY, TOO!
YOU AGAIN! YOU CAN'T LET ME ALONE, CAN YOU?
I NEED A SCIENTIFIC GENIUS-- AND YOU QUALIFY!


WHAT CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT PROJECT-J-- THE GOVERNMENT'S SUPER-SECRET NERVE GAS?
NOT MUCH! I HAVEN'T WORKED ON IT-- BUT GOSSIP SAYS IT'S A CATALYST--
--INTERACTS WITH NITROGEN IN THE AIR TO PRODUCE TOXIC FUMES!
ANY SPECIAL PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS?
COLOR?
ODOR?
IT WOULD BE COLORLESS, OF COURSE!
AS TO ODOR... I'M GUESSING IT WOULD SMELL LIKE VIOLETS!
UNDERSTAND, I'M ONLY CONJECTURING...
...HE'S GONE!
THAT'S THE WAY OF THE BATMAN!
MONDAY NIGHT... IN A PART OF THE CITY NICE FOLK AVOID--' A NOT-SO-GENTLE MAN KNOWN AS "MATCHES" MALONE GAZES THOUGHTFULLY AT AN ESTABLISHMENT FAMED FOR BAD DRINK AND WORSE FOOD...
bar & grill
HOWZIT, MATCHES? WANT THE USUAL?
NOT JUST NOW, FREDDY!
I'M LOOKIN' FOR SOME BODY--CHIMP MANNERS!
I OWE HIM A GRAND..
HE BET HE'D MAKE A CHIMP OUTA THE BATMAN-
AN' HE DID!
NAW... HE AIN'T BEEN ON THE SCENE LATELY!
HE'S LYING! WELL... LET HIM!
THAT BIRD IS TAKING A STEAK INTO THE BACK ROOM! MAYBE I OUGHT TO KEEP THE DINER COMPANY!

THEN, IN AN ALLEYWAY BEHIND THE BUILDING...
RETIRE FRIEND MATCHES...
IN FAVOR OF THE BATMAN!
AND, INSIDE...
I TELL YA, HARRY, YOU'D'A LOVED IT... THE WAY I CLOBBERED THE BATMAN!
HE COMES AT ME SWINGING, SEE, AN' I NAIL 'IM WITH MY LEFT HOOK--
--HE GOES DOWN AN'.. UH--
MMMM! NOT BAD! A TRIFLE OVERDONE FOR MY TASTE, THOUGH!
DON'T LET ME INTER-RUPT YOUR...FANTASY!
YOU WERE SAYING I WENT DOWN--
YOU WILL... THIS TIME! YOU'LL DROP PERMANENTLY!
TRUE... I'LL DIE-- EVENTUALLY! EVERYONE DOES!
BUT NO CHEAP PUNK WILL BE THE CAUSE!
KLAAAK
A STRAY SLUG . AND SUDDEN DARKNESS SHROUDS THE ROOM--!
8


I'LL GET HIM FOR YA, CHIMP!
BAM BAM BAM
AGGH!
I DID IT! I GUNNED THE BATMAN!
WORD HITS THE STREETS ABOUT THIS, I'LL BE THE BIGGEST MAN IN--
--TOW-OOWWW!
KR-EEZZCH
MANNERS! WHERE ARE YOU?
I HEARD A GROAN...
HE WON'T ANSWER-- EVER AGAIN! HIS BUDDY ACCIDENTALLY SHOT HIM-- STRAIGHT THROUGH THE HEART!
MY CHANCE FOR INFORMATION DIED WITH HIM--!
I HOPE ROBIN FARES BETTER!
CONTINUED ON 2ND. PAGE FOLLOWING
9

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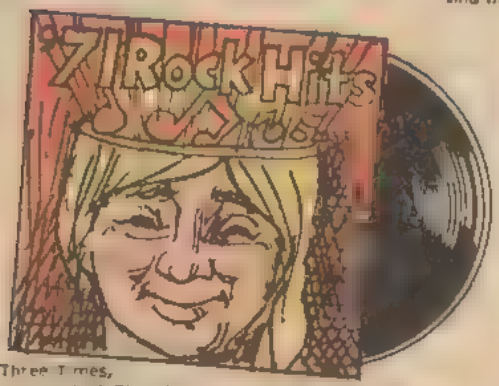
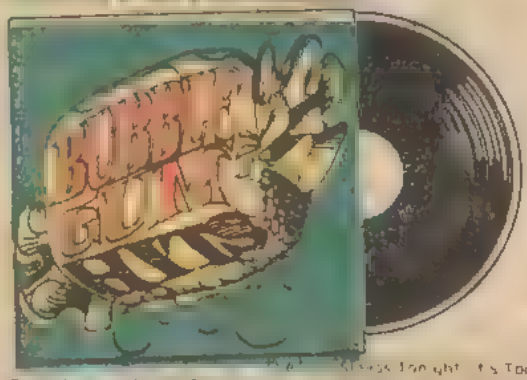
The King and Queen of [illegible] sing their greatest hits [illegible]




Knock Three Times, Go Away Little Girl, The Nickel Song, Sweet and Innocent, I Think I Love You, Doesn't Somebody Want To Be Wanted, Yo-Yo.




[illegible] Tonight It's Too Late, You're [illegible] Absolutely Right.

A new, space age process brings you stereo sound in a compact size album. **SEND TODAY!!**

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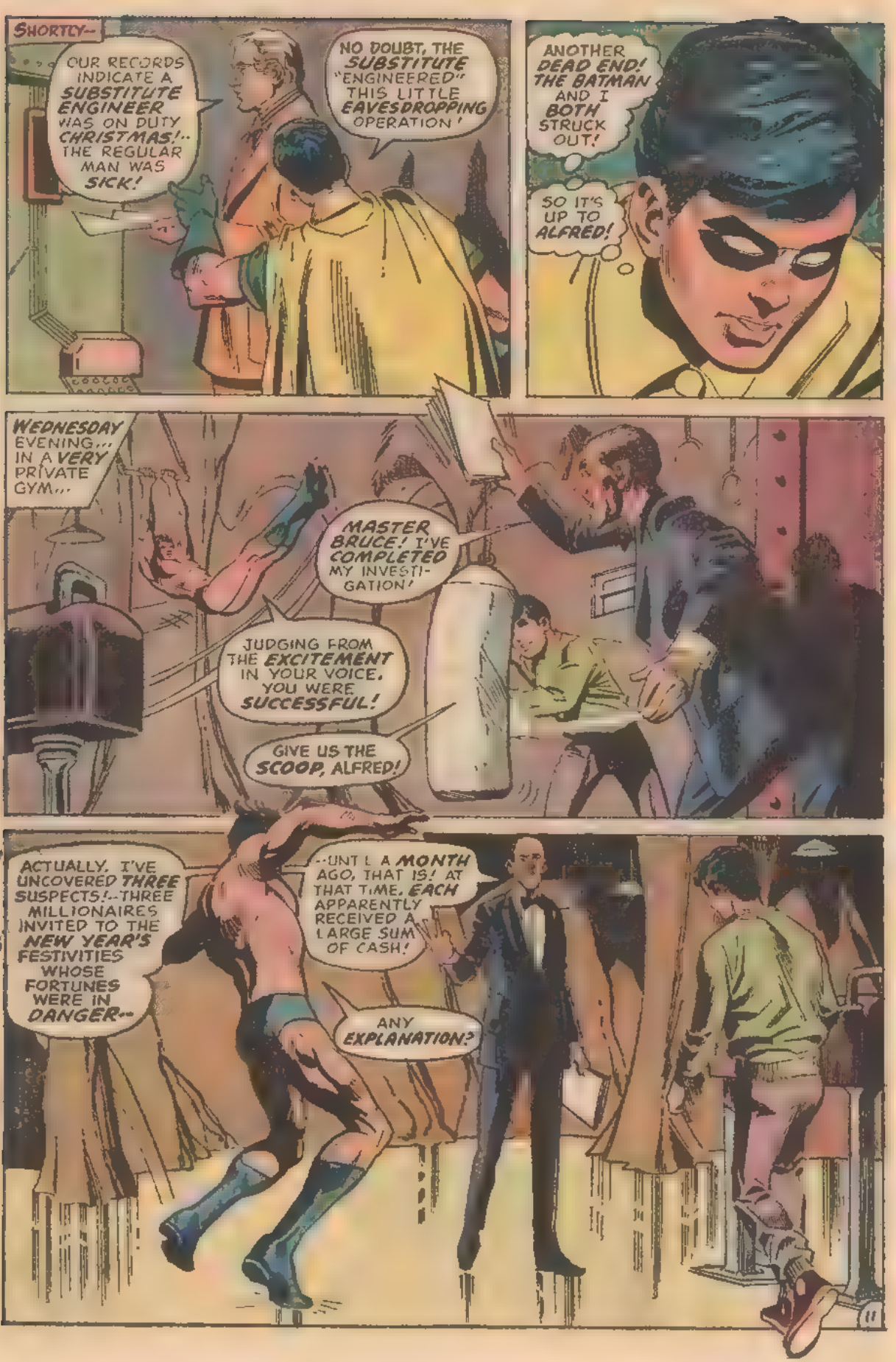
Name .....
Address.....
City.....State.....Zip .....

TUESDAY AFTER-NOON, AT [illegible] HEAD QUARTERS...
HELLO, COM-MISSIONER GORDON!
HELLO, SON!
WHO ARE THESE BRATS TRAIPSING UNDERFOOT, GORDON?
AS COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC WORKS, I HAVE A...
...YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW, REEVES!
WELL, THESE... BRATS, AS YOU CALL THEM, ARE POLICE CADETS!
IT'S A NEW TRAINING PROGRAM WE'VE INSTITUTED FOR YOUTHS INTERESTED IN LAW ENFORCEMENT!
WASTE OF MONEY, IN MY OPINION!
ACCORDING TO THE LOG BOOK, COMMISSIONER GORDON WAS ALONE IN HIS OFFICE WHEN THE BATMAN CALLED HIM CHRISTMAS DAY!
SURELY HE DIDN'T PLAN THE AMBUSH-
--WHICH LEAVES ONE POSSIBILITY... A WIRE-TAP!
THE MASTER-PLANS FOR THE BUILDING SHOW PHONE WIRES RUN ALONG HERE!
AH! EXACTLY WHAT I WAS LOOKING FOR--! A TAP!
LOOKS LIKE IT WAS ONCE CONNECTED TO A TAPE-RECORDER!
NO REASON TO CONTINUE MY MASQUERADE! THE WIG AND GLASSES WERE DRIVING ME NUTS!
EXIT ONE CADET... AND ENTER ROBIN!


SHORTLY--
OUR RECORDS INDICATE A SUBSTITUTE ENGINEER WAS ON DUTY CHRISTMAS!.. THE REGULAR MAN WAS SICK!
NO DOUBT, THE SUBSTITUTE "ENGINEERED" THIS LITTLE EAVESDROPPING OPERATION!
ANOTHER DEAD END! THE BATMAN AND I BOTH STRUCK OUT!
SO IT'S UP TO ALFRED!
WEDNESDAY EVENING... IN A VERY PRIVATE GYM...
MASTER BRUCE! I'VE COMPLETED MY INVESTI-GATION!
JUDGING FROM THE EXCITEMENT IN YOUR VOICE, YOU WERE SUCCESSFUL!
GIVE US THE SCOOP, ALFRED!
ACTUALLY, I'VE UNCOVERED THREE SUSPECTS!--THREE MILLIONAIRES INVITED TO THE NEW YEAR'S FESTIVITIES WHOSE FORTUNES WERE IN DANGER--
--UNTIL A MONTH AGO, THAT IS! AT THAT TIME, EACH APPARENTLY RECEIVED A LARGE SUM OF CASH!
ANY EXPLANATION?
11

ON THE STOCK EXCHANGE, THE CHAPS ARE SAYING THESE GENTLEMEN WITHDREW FUNDS FROM SECRET SWISS BANK ACCOUNTS TO MEET PRESENT NEEDS!
I FEAR IT WOULD REQUIRE MONTHS TO VERIFY THE RUMOR!
--WE HAVE LESS THAN FOUR DAYS!
YOU LEARN THE NAMES OF THESE THREE DUDES, ALFRED?
NATURALLY, MASTER RICHARD! I AM NOT AN INCOMPETENT!
THEY ARE WILSON ENNET, SANDOUR GROGAN AND MARSDEN VAN OYNE III!
ENNET...
GROGAN...
AND VAN DYNE!
--AT LEAST ONE WAS PAID BY BOSS HALSTROM TO SECURE HIS RELEASE!
--AT LEAST ONE IS HOLDING A CANNISTER THAT COULD DESTROY HALF OF GOTHAM!
BUT... WHICH?
THURSDAY NIGHT... A LUXURIOUS HOUSE ON THE CITY'S OUTSKIRTS...
SIR, YOU'VE SEEN THE NEWSPAPER?
YOU REFER TO THE REPORT OF HALSTROM'S --HEART ATTACK?
A RUSE-- A TRANSPARENT LIE!
HALSTROM IS ALIVE-- AND HE SHALL BE FREE! I'VE GIVEN MY WORD-- AND HE HAS GIVEN ME A GREAT DEAL OF MONEY!
THIS SMALL CONTAINER IS THE KEY... TO UNLOCK HALSTROM'S CELL!
12

YOU'RE NOT REALLY GONNA OPEN THAT THING--!
INDEED I AM! PRECISELY ON SCHEDULE... AT THE STROKE OF MIDNIGHT, NEW YEAR'S EVE!
DON'T WORRY... YOU AND I WILL BE PROTECTED!
WATCH CAREFULLY.. I AM ATTACHING A [illegible] TO THE CANNISTER!
IN 77 HOURS I WILL EXPLODE--
OPENING THE CANNISTER AND RELEASING THE CONTENTS!
PUT MY... TOY IN THE PLACE I ARRANGED!
GO-- AND REPORT TO ME WHEN YOU'RE DONE!
Y-YES-SIR!
FRIDAY... [illegible] COMMISSIONER [illegible]
53 HOURS LEFT... AND WE'VE GOTTEN NOWHERE!
I'VE HAD DETECTIVES WATCHING ENNET, GROGAN, AND VAN DYNE--
--AND THEIR REPORTS ARE A GREAT, ROUND ZERO!
HOW ABOUT EVACUATING GOTHAM?
NO GOOD, ROBIN! AN EVACUATION ORDER WOULD CAUSE PANIC! TENS OF THOUSANDS WOULD BE TRAMPLED... OR WORSE!
I CONFESS, I'M BEAT! I'M FRESH OUT OF IDEAS!
I'M NOT-- NOT QUITE!
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

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• CORGI As fast and furious as you can imagine

CONSIDER... WE'VE GOT THREE SUSPECTS-ALL OF WHOM WILL BE AT THE SKYTOP CLUB!
IT FIGURES THE GAS WILL BE THERE SOMEWHERE, TOO!
ERGO, OUR TASK IS SIMPLE--FORCE THE WOULD-BE MASS-MURDERER INTO REVEALING HIMSELF!
THAT'S SIMPLE?! BATMAN... YOU'RE ASKING FOR A MIRACLE!
NOT A MIRACLE! --MAYBE A BIT OF CHICANERY WILL SERVE!
COME ON, ROBIN! WE'RE GOING TO PREPARE A DIRTY TRICK!
SATURDAY, 9 P.M.--THE BATCAVE..
I HATE TO RUIN YOUR CHRISTMAS VACATION, KID!
NO SWEAT! I MEAN... I'M LUCKY! THE OTHER COLLEGE STUDENTS ARE ATTENDING DANCES, SHOWS...
...ESCOURTING FAIR MAIDENS HITHER AND YON! --SILLY STUFF LIKE THAT!
ME--I GET TO CLOSET MYSELF IN A NICE, DAMP CAVE WITH A A LOT OF SMELLY CHEMICALS!
I'M LUCKY... SURE I AM!
AND, FINALLY, SUNDAY...NEW YEAR'S EVE!
A FORMIDABLE THRONG OF MERRY-MAKERS, MASTER BRUCE...
THEY WOULDN'T BE LAUGHING IF THEY KNEW WHAT WE KNOW!
14

SK
APPY NEW YEAR
MAY I ASK THE PURPOSE OF THE CABLE STRETCHING FROM THE SKYTOP CLUB TO THE STREET, MASTER BRUCE?
AT 12, A SILVER BALL WILL DROP DOWN--SIGNALING THE BEGINNING OF 1973!
PRAY THAT'S ALL IT WILL SIGNAL!
--FRANKLY, I'M NOT SURE OUR STUNT WILL WORK!
WAYNE! NICE TO SEE YOU, FELLOW!
WELL, WELL... THREE OF MY... FAVORITE PEOPLE--ENNET, GROGAN, AND VAN DYNE!
READY FOR A BOUT OF CELEBRATING!
BRUCE IS ALWAYS READY FOR A PARTY!
I CAN ALREADY TASTE THE CHAMPAGNE AND CAVIAR!
SORRY TO PULL THE SNOB ROUTINE ON YOU, ALFRED--
--BUT I'D LIKE YOU TO STAY WITH THE SERVANTS! KEEP AN EYE AND EAR PEELED--
--AND WHEN I RAISE MY HAND... YOU AND ROBIN MOVE!
AB-SOLUTELY, SIR!
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING
15

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A129

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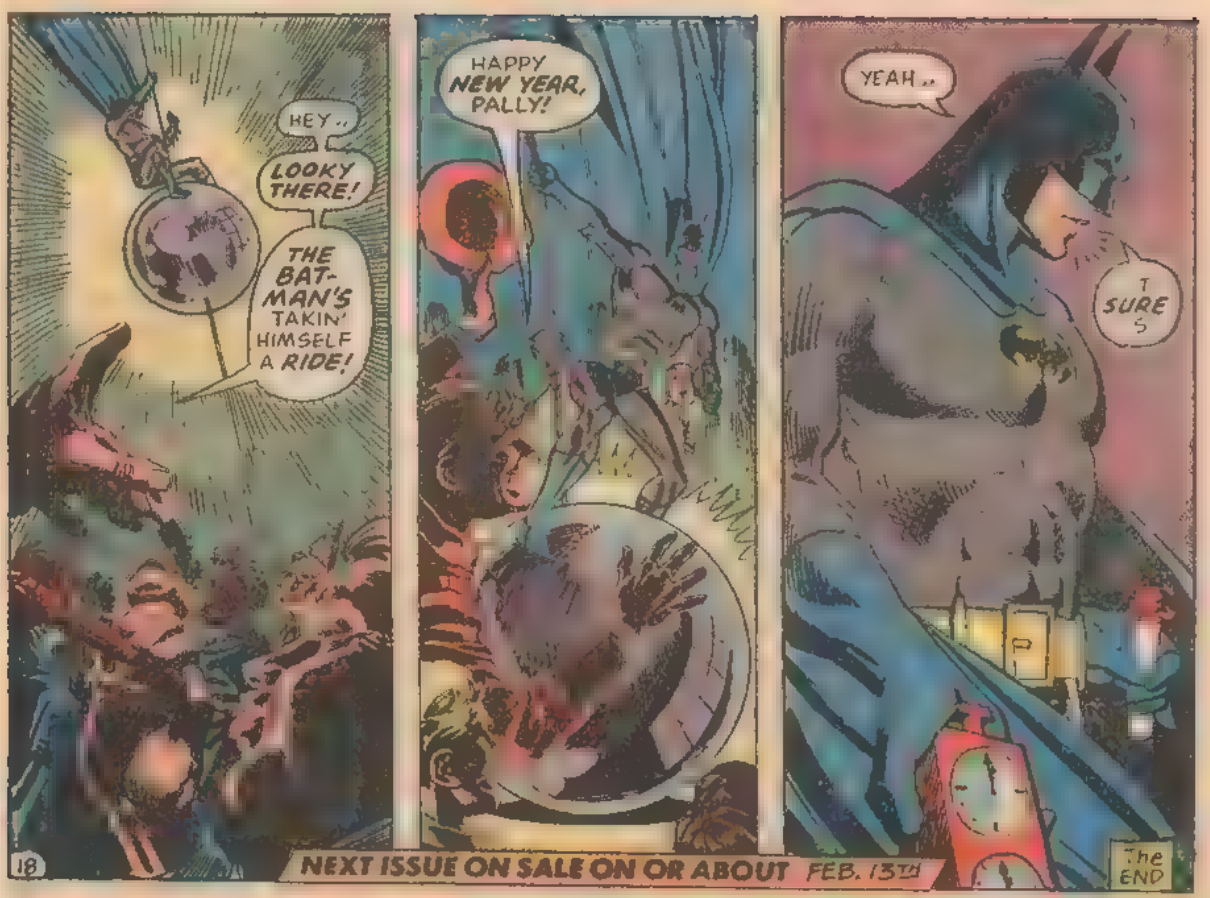
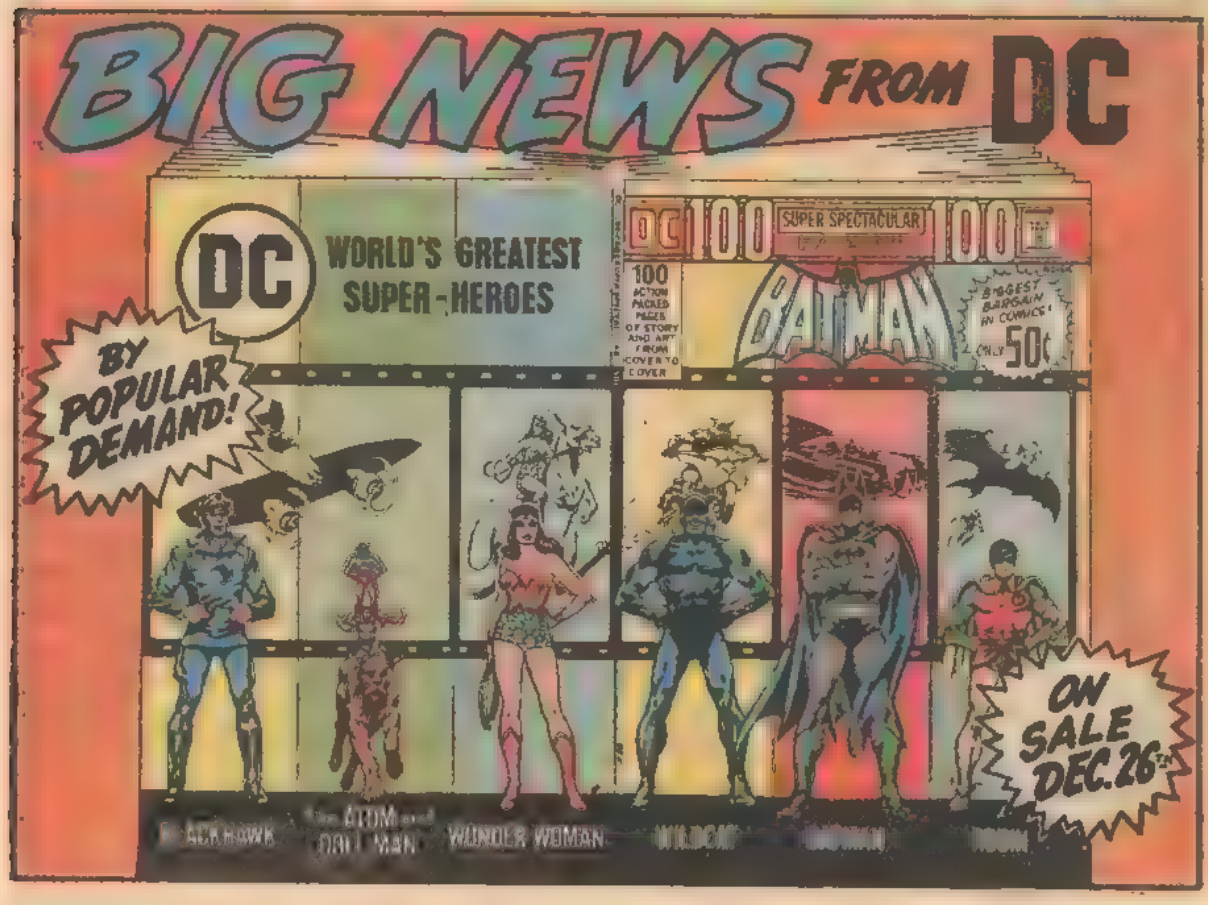
IN 5 MINUTES, 1972 WILL BE PAST HISTORY!
UM-HUM
EXCUSE ME, GROGAN
OKAY, ALFRED.. DO IT!
SURREPTITIOUSLY, ALFRED SMASHES A SMALL GLASS BOTTLE AND--
HUM! SMELLS LIKE VIOLETS!
VIOLETS!
-NO!
--CAN'T BE!
TAKING OUT A GAS-MASK, HUH? MISTER ENNET, YOU'VE GIVEN YOURSELF AWAY!
16

ROBIN!
ENNET'S CHAFFEUR --HE'S GOT A MASK, TOO!
NAIL HIM!
I'M ON MY WAY!
OBVIOUSLY, YOU'RE LOYAL TO YOUR EMPLOYER! SO YOU DESERVE THE SAME TREATMENT!
ENNET GLANCED TOWARD THE WINDOW WHEN HE SNIFFED OUR PHONY GAS-BOMB--
THE REAL BOMB MUST BE--
--ON THE BALL!
THERE IT IS... STUCK WITH TAPE!
--WITH A TIMER ATTACHED!
HAPPY NEW YEAR
ONLY SECONDS TO REACH IT--!
HAPPY NEW YEAR


HEY..
LOOKY THERE!
THE BAT-MAN'S TAKIN' HIMSELF A RIDE!
HAPPY NEW YEAR, PALLY!
YEAH..
I SURE S
18
NEXT ISSUE ON SALE ON OR ABOUT FEB. 13TH
The END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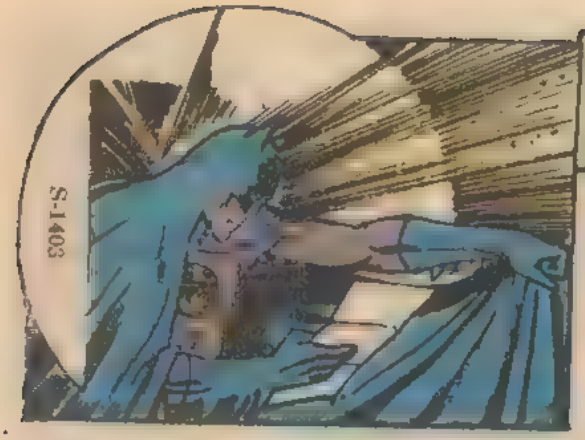


# LETTERS to the BATMAN

*Dear Editor:*

*Batman* #244 was perfect (in almost every way)!

To start off, Neal Adams' cover was almost perfect; *almost* because of the unsightly "blurb" in the bottom-right corner—it ruined the mood of the cover.

Upon opening the cover and until closing it, I was overcome by rapturous delights; I was ecstatic

*The Batman* was portrayed by O'Neil in "The Demon Lives Again" as no other author has ever done. His strengths *and* failures were effectively shown. Oh, how cruel is *Ra's Al Ghul* . . . with pure desperation he must kill *The Batman* . . . a man who will stand up to the demon, a man who could defeat the demon And determination carried *The Batman* on to do so. I hope we hear from *Ra's Al Ghul* and daughter Talia again soon. And what about Molly, Ling, and the Doctor? What is going to happen to them? I think they should not be just forgotten as usually happens to supporting characters such as they.

Elliot Maggin portrayed *Robin* as well as ever in "The Teen-Age Trap" and Irv Novick and Dick Giordano pencil-inked their way to bliss and happiness (at least for me). It's amazing what Elliot Maggin did with 8 pages. He created a plot, controversy, two fights, a character study of *Robin* and Dick Grayson by *Robin* and Grayson. Elliot has proved again that he is a great in comix-writing. I implore you to keep him on *Robin*.

*—PAUL EDWARDS, N. Bellmore, N.Y.*

*(Hopefully, the supporting characters you mention will be neither gone nor forgotten from these pages. Indeed, your unnamed Doctor—Doctor Blaine—pops up again in this very issue. Elliot Maggin, fresh out of Brandeis University (and "fresh" may be putting it mildly) will return with another* Robin-*solo, "Immortals of Usen Castle," in the forthcoming* Batman.*—JS)*

*Dear Editor:*

*Batman* #244 was brilliant in every way. The cover was delightful and *The Batman* could not have looked more real.

"The Demon Lives Again" was full of feelings and emotions. It was played to perfection from beginning to end. There was no waste of words or actions. Every panel was important to the story.

The duel between *Ra's al Ghul* and *The Batman* was exciting and for once, no dialogue! Just dread silence in a fight that would mean someone's death. Talia, a girl with mixed emotions, could do naught but watch. Then the scorpion bite and our hero was left to die a death of suffering. No begging though, for *The Batman* will grovel at no man's feet.

Talia ran true to form and at once saved her loved one's life. Now *The Batman* is wrathful. Vengeance tears his soul to shreds. He now knows who the victor will be. Must always be! *Ra's* is defeated, but what of the girl? He does what any man would do. Yes, he is a person who stands up for right, but still he should be portrayed as a man! Denny O'Neil did a fine job.

*—RON BLAIR, Cumberland, Ky.*

*(How "fine" is challenged by a certain* Guy *who is Number* III *in name as well as appearance in this letter!—JS)*

*Dear Editor:*

I would have liked the latest battle between *Batman* and *Ra's al Ghul* much more, I am sad to say, if it had only been a one-issue novel The second half of the epic which began in *Batman* #243 promised, as did the first, to climax *Batman's* long and fascinating duel with this frightening character—instead, we are left with a rather vapid plot with an ending both *deja vu* and *deus ex machina*. Once again *Batman* was saved from unlucky fate by the clinging love of *Ra's* daughter a predictable and therefore painful plot device The superb supporting characters that were the real stars of the last issue served here mainly to fail, and show the demon's power . . . contrast this to the positive and enjoyable contribution they made last time. No, my high hopes when I saw the magnificent Neal Adams cover fell as I realized that nothing conclusive had come about. So my basic complaint: the story should have ended, really ended, with the death of *Ra's al Ghul*. A good character—especially a villain—has an ending as well as an origin . . . you should've realized that sometimes it is best to call something off when you're ahead.

*—GUY LILLIAN III, Kenner, La.*

*Dear Editor:*

"The Demon Lives Again", unlike its immediate predecessor, was much MORE than just a visual experience. "The Lazarus Pit" was admirably full-length and regrettably short on story, but Denny O'Neil came through like the dependable workhorse he is on his scripting of *Ra's al Ghul's* final showdown. *Ra's* began as a mysterious, almost *kindly* personality, and grew a bit more mad and dangerous with each successive appearance. With this last story, he achieved *Joker*-stature, and *that*, sir, is high praise indeed. (Speaking of *The Joker*, when . . . no, never mind. I hate to be a pest!)

Incidentally, I was glad to see Neal Adams give our virile *Batman* hair on his chest. Suddenly Bruce Wayne (remember how he looked in the 1950's?) is emerging as the sexiest comix swashbuckler this side of *Conan* (whozat?)! Meanwhile, we girl-watchers got double our money's worth with goody-goody Molly and baddie-baddie Talia . . . *both* no slouches in the looks department!

*—STEVE BRERY, Alma, Mich.*

*(From an "unimpeachable" source we have learned that Neal Adams has actually completed one page of "The Joker's Five-Way Revenge!" The higher mathematics necessary to compute the completion of the other 22 pages is beyond us!—JS)*

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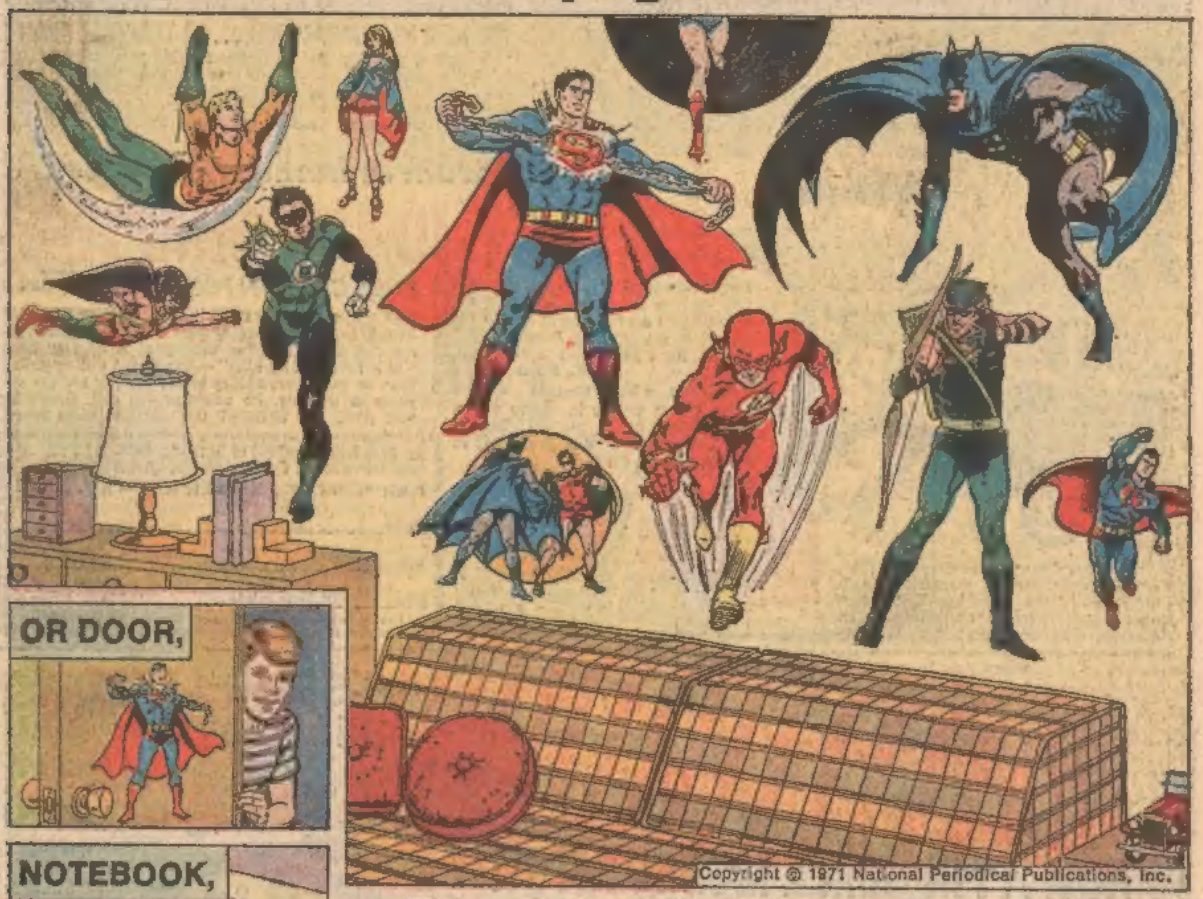


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# THE INSULT THAT MADE A MAN OUT OF 'MAC'

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THAT MAN IS THE WORST NUISANCE ON THE BEACH
LISTEN HERE, I'D SMASH YOUR FACE — ONLY YOU'RE SO SKINNY YOU MIGHT DRY UP AND BLOW AWAY
THE BIG BULLY! I'LL GET EVEN WITH SOME DAY
OH DON'T LET IT BOTHER YOU LITTLE BOY!
DARN IT! I'M SICK AND TIRED OF BEING A SCARECROW! CHARLES ATLAS SAYS HE CAN GIVE ME A REAL BODY. ALL RIGHT! I'LL GAMBLE A STAMP AND GET HIS FREE BOOK!
BOY! IT DIDN'T TAKE ATLAS LONG TO DO THIS FOR ME! WHAT MUSCLES! THAT BULLY WON'T SHOVE ME AROUND AGAIN!
THERE'S THAT BIG STIFF AGAIN, SHOWING OFF IN FRONT OF GRACE AND THE CROWD. WELL, IT'S MY TURN THIS TIME!
WHAM! NOW IT'S HIS TURN TO DRY UP AND BLOW AWAY!
OH, MAC! YOU ARE A REAL MAN AFTER ALL!

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- ☐ MORE WEIGHT
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